Introduction of local call dialling

*409. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to introduce facilities of local call dialling among cities like Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai and States connected with these cities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it would be introduced in these cities and the respective States?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) Sir, the matter is under consideration.

Implementation of Right to Information Act

†*410. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the Right to Information Act was passed by Parliament;

(b) since when this Act has been brought into force;

(c) the names of Government departments exempted from providing information under the said Act; and

(d) the details of rules set for obtaining information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (d) With a view to make the legislation on the 'Right to Information' more progressive, participatory and meaningful, Government has introduced 'The Right to Information Bill, 2004' in the Lok SAbha on the 23rd December, 2004. The Bill, as introduced in the Lok Sabha and pending therein, was referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice for examination and report. The Committee has since presented its Third Report on the Bill to the Rajya Sabha on 21st March, 2005 and laid it on the Table of Lok Sabha the same day. The recommendations made by the Committee are being examined with a view to finalise the same.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.